(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to preserve those monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIJAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No grievous damage has been caused to Buland Darwaza or other protected monuments, due to mining. However, effect of vibration on monuments and to the prehistoric rock shelters situated in the vicinity of Fatehpur Sikri due to repeated dynamite blasts cannot be ruled out. To contain further damage to the natural environs of world heritage site and to contain impact of vibration on the monuments due to blasts. Archaeological Survey of India has approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and requested for specific direction to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to ban mining activities within 10 km. radius and the court has heard the matter on 18.12.2003 for orders/directions. The matter had been repeated taken up with State Government and the State Government has not issued any fresh lease since 1999 and the district authorities of Agra have cancelled 36 leases.

The conservation, preservation, maintenance and environmental development in and around the centrally protected monuments is a continuous process as per archaeological principles.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidies for Haj Pilgrimage

2163. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue to provide subsidies for Haj Pilgrimage for the 2004 season, if so, with what conditions and modifications, *vis-a-vis* subsidies provides in 2003; and

(b) whether such subsidies have been provided for any other pilgrimages, if so, the details and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of changes effected from Haj-2004 onwards are (i) the subsidized Haj fare is permitted for each pilgrim only once in his/her life time from Haj-2004 onwards; (ii) no Income Tax payer is allowed to avail of the subsidized fare from Haj-2004 onwards; (iii) only those pilgrims who live in the accommodation provided

by Haj Committee would be eligible for the subsidized fare; (iv) the subsidized fare would be kept at the existing level of Rs. 12,000 for Haj 2004 and the subsidy may be reduced in a phased manner in subsequent year. Government has also directed that an affidavit be obtained from the pilgrim to the effect that they have not availed the subsidized Haj fare earlier and that they are not income tax payer.

(b) In case of the Kaiiash Mansarover Yatra, the Government provides Rs. 3250/- per Yatri to the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) which arranges boarding and lodging for the Yatris, to partially offset the expenditure incurred by the yatris. Apart from this, cetain logistic facilities are also provided to groups of pilgrims visiting Pakistan in accordance with the provisons of a bilateral "Protocol on Visits to religious Shrines-1974" signed between two countries.

Upgradation of Airports in UP

†2164. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports under National Airports Authority of India in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of airports which are proposed to be upgraded as international airports out of them; and

(c) the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) There are three operational and two non-operational airports in Uttar Pradesh belonging to Airports Authority of India.

(b) and (c) Upgradation of airports is a continuous process based on the requirements. The airports at Lucknow and Varanasi have Customs and Immigration facilities for handling limited international flights. The runway at Lucknow airport has been extended to 9000 feet and runway of Varanasi airport is being extended to 9000 feet for operations of A-300 type of aircraft. A new integrated terminal building for 500 domestic and 300 international passengers with aero-bridges is planned at Varanasi.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.